



## 64th Annual General Meeting of Members

April 29th, 2026 7:00 pm online via Teams

### **President's Welcome**

LOWDSA Board member Jeff Rempel Chaired the meeting and welcomed attendees to the 2026 Annual General Meeting of members and reviewed virtual meeting procedures, including muting microphones, using the Q&A tab, and voting via the raise-hand icon. A support phone number was provided for technical issues.

Jeff acknowledged the lands and waters of Treaty 1 and Treaty 3, recognizing the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Cree, and Métis peoples.

Jeff then confirmed that a quorum of members was present, then called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Jeff presented the agenda for the 2026 Annual General Meeting and called for a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was moved by Bob Stewart, seconded by Carley Fyke, and passed.

### **Approval of 2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Jeff called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The motion was moved by Trevor Templeton, seconded by Sean Campbell, and passed.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Brie McCardle began her Executive Director's report by emphasizing the strength of LOWDSA's community and the importance of member support in driving the Association's work. Brie highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen communication and engagement with members, including the refreshed Area News magazine, social media pages, and



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eNewsletter. Brie noted the success of last year's Celebrate Lake Life Golf Tournament and shared the Association's decision to shift the event to an every-other-year format. Brie announced the LakeSmart Team for 2026, returning members Cass Wagner (LakeSmart Lead), Ashley Vogrig, Kailyn Rozecki, and Mimi Mastromatteo. Brie acknowledged the 2024 LakeSmart sponsors and announced the Celebrate Lake Life Golf Tournament to be held on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Brie concluded with a thank-you to Garth Collier as he retires from the LOWDSA Board of Directors.

## **2025 Financial Statements**

Carley Fyke, Co-Treasurer of the Association, presented the report of the Finance Committee and the 2025 audited Financial Statements. Carley reported on the Association's revenue and expenses and reviewed the statement of financial position and EISP position. Carley summarized the financial expectations for the coming year.

## **Appointment of Auditors**

Carley Fyke moved that Ainsley Donald, Independent Auditor, be re-appointed auditor of the Association for the 2026 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Trevor Templeton and passed.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Membership Committee**

Trevor Templeton, Chair of the Membership and Communications Committee, began his report by summarizing the role of the Membership Committee.

Quinn Miller, Membership & Communications Coordinator, then provided an overview of LOWDSA's membership and demographics and discussed the drop in membership due to issues with the Association's previous online system. Quinn highlighted the decision to switch to a new system to provide LOWDSA members with a positive online experience.

Trevor followed up with a discussion about LOWDSA's efforts to reach out to members who were impacted by the previous online system issues and the impact of email and call campaigns. Trevor also highlighted the Association's focus on providing value to current



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members and reaching out to potential new members through enhanced and targeted communication by highlighting core initiatives.

### **Government Affairs Committee**

Brie McCardle provided the Government Affairs Committee report due to technical difficulties. Brie provided an overview of several ongoing and regulatory topics relevant to LOWDSA members including please craft licencing, remote border crossing, Trans-Canada Highway twinning, electricity rates in Ontario, water-level management, forestry management, nuclear waste sites, internet access, and taxation.

### **Environment Committee**

Sean Campbell, Chair of the Environment Committee, reported on the activities of the Committee over the last year, including presentations to the committee by IISD Experimental Lakes Area, Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation (LOWWSF) and the International Joint Commission, and others. Sean highlighted the impact of the 2025 LakeSmart program through dock talks, kids programming, local markets, and community engagement. Sean then provided an overview of programming for the 2026 year including seedling distribution, dock talks, metal and electronic waste collection, and LOWDSA's first year running a boat wash station.

### **Election of Directors**

Carley Fyke moved that the following directors be re-elected to serve a term of two years, seconded by Natalie James, and passed.

- Bob Stewart
- Don Parfitt
- Jeff Rempel
- Sean Campbell
- Trevor Templeton

Jeff Rempel shared the list of the current directors of the Association:

- Bob Stewart



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- Carley Fyke
- Don Parfitt
- James Williams
- Jeff Rempel
- Joanne Tuckwell
- Leigh McKenzie
- Martha Mankewich
- Meghan Mills
- Natalie James
- Sean Campbell
- Trevor Templeton

### **Question and Answer Session and Adjournment**

During the question-and-answer period of the meeting the following questions were asked:

#### **Q: How many members have been lost in the past two years?**

*A: Quinn Miller answered the question by indicating that approximately 300 members have been lost in the past two years. She also provided information that of the 300 members that have been lost, 200 could be directly attributed to the online system issues.*

#### **Q: Your balance sheet at year-end showed great loss in equity, what is your plan to address it?**

*A: Carley Fyke answered the question by explaining that grant money comes in and goes out dollar for dollar. Membership fees pay for operating expenses which sustains our environmental programs. Our shortfall is membership. We are focussing on targeting a younger audience, new Lake of the Woods families, and others by refreshing and modernizing – the goal being to reach and diversify a larger demographic. So far, we have updated our website, refreshed the Area News magazine, as well as our eNews communications and social media. We are also strengthening the perks of membership through events, member discounts, and other membership perks. We have seen upward trends with a combination of the above and have a focus on campaigning efforts to renew expired members.*



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**Q: Regarding membership, is there a plan to possibly get Regional/Branch Road members to help in this?**

*A: Jeff Rempel answered the question, saying that there currently was not a plan to reach out to Regional/Branch Road members but that it was a suggestion the Board appreciated and would look into. Jeff also expressed that any suggestions were appreciated.*

**Q: What is the current status of Portage Bay Bridge in Keewatin?**

*A: Brie McCardle answered the question, stating that the Portage Bay Bridge has been closed since October 2024. There were plans to start work and scaffolding beginning in 2026 but have been delayed due to materials.*

Following the question-and-answer session, Jeff thanked members for their attendance at the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.